William Wood Thackara, Volunteer in the War of 1812

WILLIAM WOOD THACKARA was born in Philadelphia on February 9, 1791.[1] He was the first son of Hannah Trenchard Thackara and her husband James, an engraver who gained moderate prominence in the city's artistic and political circles.[2] Thackara's formal education began at the age of five and continued for nine years. In July, 1805, he sailed aboard the ship *Four Friends* to Ireland, returning to Philadelphia after about seven months abroad. Faced then with the problem of choosing an occupation, he was persuaded by his uncle Captain Samuel Thackara to become a clerk in the counting house of Jesse Waln and Company.

The period of young Thackara's clerkship was active and enjoyable. He indulged in the pleasures available to a youth in early nineteenth-century Philadelphia—evenings at the theater, at Peale's Museum, and at dances—and, in addition, he studied French, took dancing lessons, and made frequent trips to New Jersey to visit friends and relatives. Thackara was elected to membership in the Delaware Fire Company and was a founder of the Euterpian Society, which he subsequently served as president.

[1] Thackara took his maternal grandmother's maiden name as a middle name when he reached the age of twenty-one. His diary for the years 1810 through 1816, with autobiographical notes, is preserved at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; and from this is derived the biographical information pertaining to the first twenty-five years of his life contained in this introduction, as well as the account which follows of his experience as a volunteer in the War of 1812. I am indebted to Mr. Robert Crompton, Glenside, Pa., who made available to the writer the results of his research, in which he is presently engaged, on the Thackara family.

[2] Hannah Trenchard (? –1813) and James Thackara (1767–1848) were married in Philadelphia in 1790. Lewis D. Cook, "George Trenchard of Salem, N. J. and Descendants," *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, XIX (1952), 25; for information about James Thackara see Robert D. Crompton, "James Thackara, Engraver of Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pa.," *Journal of the Lancaster Historical Society*, LXII (1958), 65–95; Crompton, "James Thackara, American Engraver," *Antiques*, LXXIV (1958), 424–428.

Having learned the techniques of business and accounting, Thackara decided to embark upon an enterprise of his own and undertook the management of a store in Cedarville, New Jersey, in April, 1812. His career as a country merchant was evidently unsuccessful, for he maintained the store only until August of the following year, when he returned to Philadelphia and became an engraver.

It is not surprising that Thackara turned to this trade as his father and his uncle James Trenchard were well-known engravers and doubtless recognized the young man's talent and influenced his decision. No doubt, William Thackara was taught the art of engraving by his father. An advertisement for one of the earliest American art instruction books in the *Aurora General Advertiser* discloses that the father and son were working together by July 2, 1814:

> JUST PUBLISHED & FOR SALE, BY JAMES THACKARA & SON, ENGRAVERS, NO. 35, SPRUCE STREET. . . .THACKARA'S DRAWING BOOK, FOR THE Amusement and instruction of young ladies and gentlemen, IN THE PLEASING AND ELEGANT ART OF DRAWING. . . .
>
> ENGRAVING in its various branches, neatly and promptly executed.

Two months later William left the shop to volunteer in the War of 1812.

After the British had left Washington in flames following their attack on the city on August 24, 1814, they moved north to threaten Baltimore. Philadelphia's fate seemed to hang in the balance and on August 26 a town meeting was held at the State House to organize a system of defense. A committee was chosen to undertake this responsibility and immediate action resulted, as reported in *Niles' Weekly Register* of September 10:

> The general committee appointed by a public meeting of the citizens have appointed other committees, viz. of *Superintendance*—to correspond, and procure and disburse the funds, &c. Of *Supplies*—to furnish arms, ammunition and provisions, &c. and fix the place of rendezvous, &c. Of *defence* on the Delaware, to procure seamen, &c. Of *organizing* the citizens into military bodies, &c. and a committee to make *provision* for the families of the drafted militia and volunteers who need assistance.[3]

[3] See *Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, VIII (Philadelphia, 1867), for minutes of meetings of the Committee of Defence.

The War Department had requested troops from Governor Simon Snyder of Pennsylvania in July, 1814; however, it was not until the invasion threat arose that an effort to assemble them was made. The number of regular militiamen available to protect Philadelphia being inadequate, the defense of the city depended primarily on volunteers.[4] Because of this situation, Governor Snyder, in the general orders directed to N. B. Boileau on August 27, expressed his hope that: "the ardor and love of Country, which pervades the hearts of Pennsylvanians at the present alarming crises, will induce many to form themselves into Volunteer corps, and immediately to march for Philadelphia."[5] Companies of volunteers were promptly formed to supplement the regular militia and the few new units which had been organized in 1813 and early in 1814, when the British had frightened the Chesapeake Bay area and worried the Delaware River Valley section.

Probably a genuine concern for the welfare of his country and city, coupled with a youthful desire for adventure, prompted William Thackara to volunteer for service in the infantry. On September 1, 1814, he became a member of the Third Company of Washington Guards.[6] Thackara's satisfaction with this company is obvious from the declaration in his diary that "a finer set of young men than our 3rd Co. scarcely ever got together—associate but little with any other. . . ."

During Thackara's time with the Washington Guards, he was stationed at Camp Bloomfield near Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and at Camps Brandywine and du Pont near Wilmington, Delaware. The latter was the permanent location of his company and other troops—both volunteer and drafted—from Philadelphia and sur-

[4] This situation resulted from an oversight of the Pennsylvania legislature which made it impossible for any troops to be drafted between Aug. 1 and Oct. 24, 1814. Sanford W. Higginbotham, *The Keystone in the Democratic Arch: Pennsylvania Politics 1800–1816* (Harrisburg, 1952), 295.

[5] *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Aug. 31, 1814.

[6] The First Company, Washington Guards was organized on Mar. 22, 1813 "for the protection of the ports and harbours of the river Delaware" by members of the Washington Association of Philadelphia comprised of Federal Republicans of at least eighteen years of age, determined to uphold the principles of George Washington. Presumably the Third Company, formed in late August, 1814, adopted the same objectives. *The United States' Gazette for the Country* (Philadelphia), Mar. 24, 1813; *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Aug. 29, 1814; *The Constitution and Laws of the Washington Association of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1811).

rounding counties, a corps known as the Advance Light Brigade under General Thomas Cadwalader. Not only were they to protect the nearby Delaware River approach to Philadelphia, but they were to insure the safety of the du Pont gunpowder mills along Brandywine Creek.

Awareness of the threat to the powder factories is seen in a letter from E. I. du Pont to Callender Irvine, in which du Pont stated that the prime reason for a British attack up the Delaware River would be to destroy Wilmington and the "improvements" in the area, especially the du Pont mills.[7] These mills were of vital importance to the American cause. During the war, their productive capacity increased significantly; by 1814 the du Ponts were the principle producers of gunpowder in the United States.[8]

The Advance Light Brigade remained at Camp du Pont from September 28 until November 30, when the troops set out for Philadelphia without having faced the British in combat. William Thackara, the exemplary private who merited the public commendation of Brigade Major John Hare Powel and Colonel Clement C. Biddle, completed his service with the Washington Guards on January 6, 1815.

His role in the War of 1812 was indeed minor, yet the record of his actions, observations, and thoughts while a volunteer is interesting. In 1820, portions of this journal were deemed to be sufficiently informative to be published almost verbatim as part of *A Brief Sketch of the Military Operations on the Delaware during the Late War.*[9] Thackara's diary, written from the standpoint of a private, provides details of camp life not included in the official documents. It complements the unofficial accounts found in letters of General Cadwalader, and in the diary of Thomas Franklin Pleasants, captain of Thackara's company.

Little is recorded of Thackara's business activities after the War of 1812 to supplement information gleaned from Philadelphia directories. He is listed from 1818 to 1822 as living and working at the

[7] E. I. du Pont de Nemours Letter Book, 1813–1815, Feb. 7, 1814, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

[8] Max Dorian, Edward B. Garside, translator, *The du Ponts: From Gunpowder to Nylon* (Boston, 1962).

[9] A major portion of this has been reprinted. See Charles L. Reese, "A Brief Sketch of Military Operations on the Delaware during the War of 1812," *Delaware History*, III (1948), 76–96.

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with his father, who remained there until 1828 as curator. The 1823 and 1824 city directories note Thackara as an engraver at a different address from that of his father, which possibly indicates that they were no longer conducting their business jointly; surviving prints which bear only the name of the younger Thackara may be from this period. By 1825 he had entered the profession of conveyancing with his cousin Samuel Wilton Thackara,[10] a change of occupation no doubt made in the hope of more lucrative employment. Directories list the cousins as working together from 1825 until 1834, by which time this partnership appears to have been dissolved. William Thackara continued as a conveyancer until his death.

The information available regarding Thackara's nonbusiness affairs after his sojourn in the army is sparce; nevertheless, it indicates a variety of activities and interests. In 1819, he married Frances Gordon at Christ Church.[11] Judging from Thackara's tendency to keep records, evidenced by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's diary which includes references to additional accounts, one would have expected him to continue this practice. The only other such journal known to exist, however, is that containing his observations during a portion of a trip to Boston, which he and his wife took in the year following their marriage. There also remains the raw material for his only known publication, a small commonplace book printed in Philadelphia in 1823, entitled *American Anecdotes, Characters and Incidents; Revolutionary and Miscellaneous*.[12] This is a mélange of patriotic, moral, and amusing stories, some of which concern well-known figures in American history.

William Thackara died of "dimentia" on April 19, 1839, having achieved a respectable position in Philadelphia society. "The members of the City Councils; the Directors of the Public Schools; and the Directors of the Mechanics Bank, of which bodies he was a member" were invited to his funeral.[13] Thackara's wife and five children, ranging from three to seventeen years of age, survived him.[14]

10 *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Jan. 6, 1825.

11 *Ibid.*, Dec. 4, 1819.

12 The manuscript record of this journey and the manuscript material for the commonplace book are in the possession of Mrs. Robert Crompton, Glenside, Pa.

13 *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, Apr. 20, 1839.

14 Cook, 27.

In the editing of this diary, the original spelling has been maintained throughout; however, punctuation and capitalization have been modernized for the sake of clarity and the form of dates for diary entries has been standardized. Words repeated by mistake or unnecessarily and those crossed out have been omitted. In order to minimize the number of footnotes, Christian names of military officers, as well as additional words required to complete the full titles of militia companies, have been inserted in brackets when lists occur. The ampersand, frequently used by Thackara, has been changed to "and", "&c." to "etc."

Smithsonian Institution ANNE CASTRODALE GOLOVIN

Diary of William Wood Thackara

September 1, 1814 Thursday. Joined the Third Company of Washington Guards, Captn. Thos. F. Pleasants.[1] Robt. B. Taylor[2] also joined the same corps.

September 7, 1814 Left Philada. to join the company at Kennets Square.[3] Went in Wilmington hack.[4] Coll. Allen McLane[5] in the stage. Very warm. Got to camp towards evening, called Camp Bloomfield. Situated on the same hill where the British were encamped previous to the Battle of Brandywine.

1 Thomas Franklin Pleasants (1790–1817), native of Philadelphia, lawyer and merchant, was elected Captain of the Third Company of the Washington Guards in 1814. Extracts from Pleasants' diary pertaining to his activities in the War of 1812 were published in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (*PMHB*), XXXIX (1915), 322–336, 410–424.

2 Robert B. Taylor, a private in the Third Company, Washington Guards, was a close friend of Thackara. *Pennsylvania Archives* (*PA*), Sixth Series, VII, 521.

3 Kennett Square, Pa., about thirty-five miles southwest of Philadelphia.

4 According to *Kites' Philadelphia Directory for 1814* (hereinafter *Directory*), three stage coach lines traveled between Philadelphia and Wilmington on weekdays and two on Sundays. The trip took approximately five hours.

5 Allan McLane (1746–1829), Philadelphia-born Revolutionary War officer who settled in Delaware, was responsible for the defense of Wilmington. *Dictionary of American Biography* (*DAB*), XII, 112–113.

September 13, 1814 Wrote to Father and Cousin R. T.,[6] describing as follows, see letters. Business and duties of a camp constant and fatiguing, a soldiers life not a lazy one. Camp pleasantly situated. Country round delightful. People of Kennett in general hospitable. Those of the Square exhorbitant in their charges, unaccomodating, and insolent. R. B. T. and I received many kindnesses from [Jonathan] Pierces family, dined at his house on Sunday last, our living in camp good. Fresh bread and beef every day. The art of cooking acquired in a short time. Keeping guard the most fatiguing duty been ever on, guns in hand 18 hours out of 24. 1300 volunteers and 300 Regulr. here. Several new companies expected. Genl. Cadwalader[7] arrived this morning, received with cheers to the mortification of U. S. officers who have taken great airs of late. Genl. Bartram[8] left us today. Not a stitch of dry clothing in camp. Never rained harder since the flood than it did last night. 500 or 600 militia encamped within a mile. 400 volunteers expected today and tomorrow. Evening amusements—balls, concerts, Ugly Club tossing in a blanket, etc. Desk, the crown of my hat; seat, a canteen. Marching orders expect to Elkton or New London X Roads.[9]

September 16, 1814 Removed the encampment from Kennett's Square to Brandywine, 11 miles, fatiguing march, steep, long, rough hills. Warm day. Knapsacks etc., rather uncomfortable.

September 21, 1814 Wrote to Father from Camp Bloomfield.

This camp more pleasantly situated than that at Kennett Square. Water very bad and a great way to go after it, few of the comforts

6 Possibly Rachel Trenchard (1789–1866), the niece of James and Hannah Thackara who came to live with them in 1798 after her father's death. Although she married William Strickland, the architect, on Nov. 3, 1812, Thackara may have continued to refer to her by the initials of her maiden name. Lewis D. Cook, "George Trenchard of Salem, N. J. and Descendants," *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, XIX (1952), 14, 27–29, 39.

7 Thomas Cadwalader (1779–1841) was appointed Brigadier General of the Advance Light Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia, on Sept. 9, 1814. Nicholas B. Wainwright, *Colonial Grandeur in Philadelphia: The House and Furniture of General John Cadwalader* (Philadelphia, 1964), 77, 128.

8 George Bartram, Jr. (1767–1840) was an officer in the 50th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Militia from 1807 until 1814. On July 4, 1814, he was appointed Brigadier General of the First Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia; by Aug. 1, 1814, he had resigned. W. A. Newman Dorland, "The Second Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry," *PMHB*, L (1926), 86–87; *PA*, Sixth Series, IV, 789.

9 Elkton, Md., about eighteen miles south of Kennett Square; New London, Pa., about ten miles southwest of Kennett Square.

and none of the luxuries of life. Just off guard, one of the most fatiguing and most unpleasant parts of a soldier's life. Major Hunter[10] makes everything uncomfortable for us, throws as much trouble as possible on the volunteers. A good drill officer and a great reprobate, very much disliked. Militia encamped with us again. Coll. Peter L. Berry[11] a *great officer*, breaks through all rules and despises discipline. Last night broke through the chain of sentinels and entered into camp despite of their orders, and his being so well known by everybody only saved him from being shot. Rules very strict. No one can pass the gate without a pass from his captain, and no captain can pass more than 10 of his men in one day. I have been but once out for the last week, and only for 2 hours. Two of the Smiths (sons of the canvass merchant Front below Chesnut St.), Wm. W. and Geo., of the State Fencibles,[12] were yesterday declared unworthy to serve the U. S. as soldiers before the whole line on parade, and were immediately struck from the roll of their company for infamous conduct.

So much is required to keep us clear of double duty that every moment is employed, marching and countermarching from one place to another, striking our tents and pitching them again, even twice a day, drilling in squads, companies and parade. We fall asleep from fatigue the moment we reach our straw. The report of the *four pounder*, the morning gun, at first so electrifying, now sometimes does not awaken me as well as others. Our water was today reported by the physician, so that I suppose in a day or two we shall remove the encampment for the third time. New companies daily coming into our encampment. Now about 1800 volunteers and 300 or 400 militia. The volunteers form an elegant line and have a good band of music. The militia do not parade with us. We are so used to wet weather that we scarcely mind it. Measured for a new uniform jacket by Jacob Thomas,[13] the one I have being grown too small—cannot

10 Charles W. Hunter was Adjutant General of the First Division, Pennsylvania Militia, having previously acted as brigade major at Camp Bloomfield. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 916; *A Brief Sketch of the Military Operations on the Delaware during the Late War* (Philadelphia, 1820), 23.

11 Lt. Col. Peter L. Berry, First Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia. *PA*, Sixth Series, VIII, 591.

12 The State Fencibles was a volunteer infantry company founded by Clement C. Biddle in 1813. For its history see Thomas S. Lanard, *One Hundred Years with the State Fencibles* (Philadelphia, 1913).

13 Jacob Thomas, merchant and tailor, 68 South Sixth St., Philadelphia.

button it. Never heartier in my life. Our mess, "no. 11 Pleasant Avenue," consists of six: Robt. B. Taylor, Johns Hopkins, Thos. Hopkinson, Francis Hopkinson, Jas. H. Hopkins* (*J. H. Hopkins was exchanged for Josh. Purdon and the Hopkinsons came in the place of Chs. Govett and David Lapsley) of Lancaster[14] and myself. Draw for our rations 8″ of beef and a large loaf of bread, what might be called a ¼ dollar loaf, after one meal very little left. F. and T. Hopkinson good feeders. Thos. never out of the way at meal times, true as the clock. A finer set of young men than our 3rd Co. scarcely ever got together—associate but little with any other. Our officers good and off duty sociable, a furlough difficult to get. Requires an application to Genl. Bloomfield.[15]

September 23, 1814 Removed the encampment ¾ of a mile further.

September 28, 1814 Removed from Camp Brandywine to Camp Dupont, on the top of a high hill on the Lancaster Road, a delightful situation 2 miles from the old ground and five from Wilmington. The Delaware can be seen from the highest parts of the ground. Fine springs of excellent water in every direction.

September 30, 1814 The First Brigade marched this morning for Marcus Hook.[16] Supposed we shall follow them or to Chad's Ford[17] on Monday. After parade this morning whilst preparing for our fatiguing *2 hours drill*, our company had their feelings considerably excited. We were resting on our arms, at an *order*, waiting for our officers when Captn. Pleasants came running up our street, breathless and agitated, and gave the command to prime and load as quick as possible. This done we were marched off in double quick time. We were on the tiptoe of expectation. Some supposed the enemy had landed and were very near. We were, with several other companies detailed for the occasion, formed into a square surrounding the militia

14 All privates in the Third Company, Washington Guards. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 519–521. Thomas Mifflin Hopkinson and Francis Hopkinson were the two eldest children of Judge Joseph Hopkinson, author of "Hail Columbia."

15 Joseph Bloomfield (1753–1823), lawyer, soldier, and fourth governor of New Jersey, was at this time commanding general of the Fourth Military District, which included Pennsylvania, Delaware, and part of New Jersey. *DAB*, II, 385–386.

16 Marcus Hook, Pa., about twenty miles from Philadelphia on the Delaware River, was near Camp Gaines where approximately 10,000 state militiamen were sent. John W. Harpster, "Major William Darlington's Diary of Service in the War of 1812," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, XX (1937), 203.

17 Chadds Ford, Pa., about eight miles east of Kennett Square.

encampment who were in a mutinous state, owing to the inattention of the quarter master, who had not furnished their rations for 48 hours. Having nothing to eat, they refused to do duty. Our situation was not an enviable one. We were drawn up, with bayonets fixed, and our guns at a present, ready to fire; and, from their stubbornness, expected to receive the word every moment. It would have been a horrid duty, and I question whether there was one man amongst us that would not rather have faced the enemy, however terrible their appearance might have been. Matters were, however, reconciled by the gentlemanly and spirited conduct of General Cadwalader, who went into the midst of them and reasoned with them upon the absurdity of their conduct, so that upon leaving them they gave him 3 cheers and returned to their duty; and we, instead of firing at our fellow citizens, fired into the air. The older companies grumble at the honor conferred upon us this morning on being placed forward on so important an occasion.[18]

October 3, 1814 Left Camp Dupont on furlough for Philada. Walked to Wilmington. Got to the city in the hack at ½ p. 1 p.m. Father and Uncle Wm.[19] left the city for camp this morning and missed me. Before I left camp this morning, a man of the name of Daily was drummed out of camp, to the tune of the Rogue's March, with a bottle round his neck and a label on his back for drunkenness. The city appears to be deserted by men. Scarcely an acquaintance to be met in the street.

October 5, 1814 Father and Uncle came home, disappointed in not seeing me, did not see a parade.

October 6, 1814 Went to Wilmington in steam boat.[20] Saw camp at Billingsport,[21] fine situation.

18 Cadwalader wrote his wife Mary on Oct. 4, 1814, that a company of 103 volunteers, who designated themselves the Cadwalader Guards, was organized from that battalion in deference to his treatment of the situation. Thomas Cadwalader Papers, Box 7, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

19 William Thackara (1770–1823), uncle of the diarist, was the first president of the Master Plasterer's Company of Philadelphia, established in 1804, and is known to have done plaster work for the Second Bank of the United States and Independence and Congress Halls in Philadelphia, and for the United States Capitol. Robert Crompton, "William Thackara, Jr., Master Plasterer of Early Philadelphia," *Plastering Industries*, XLVI (1960), 27–32, 36–37.

20 The *Directory* mentions a steamboat and a packet which traveled from Philadelphia to Wilmington. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* announced on Aug. 25, 1814, that the steamboat *Delaware* had begun providing transportation to Wilmington on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, returning to Philadelphia on the alternate weekdays.

21 Billingsport, N. J., about five miles south of Philadelphia on the Delaware River.

October 9, 1814 Sunday. Wm. Philpot[22] and I, with a pass for 7 hours, set out at ½ past 10 in the morning to go to Salem.[23] Walked to Wilmington, 5 long miles in 51 minutes. Walked to New Castle, crossed and got to Salem at ½ p. 1 p.m. Saw ⅂ and • but not ∩.[24] Spent a few minutes with Mrs. S. and H. Left Salem at 6 p.m. Crossed the river at 10. Stopped by the Regular's guard at the ferry wharf at New Castle, where they were guarding baggage and wagons, etc. To Wilmington at 11.

October 10, 1814 Got into camp through the sentries at 1 a.m. Hailed 30 or 40 paces inside of the line, answered I was after a drink and passed on. They were talking and did not see or hear me till I got in, did not suspect me. Mess uneasy about me.

October 11, 1814 Election day. Received the pay due by the state.[25] After voting, R. B. Taylor and I went to New Castle. Spent the day at Major Burnetts, very hospitable. Coll. Raguet[26] there. Saw a lyre made by a youthful genius. Democratic majority 160.[27]

October 13, 1814 Harrison, Boys, Sinnickson, Wood, Tuft, etc.[28] came to camp to see us. Saw them off from Wilmington. General Gaines[29] reviewed us today and complimented us highly upon our marching and military appearance.[30] Four of the finest guns out

22 William Philpot, private, Third Company, Washington Guards. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 521.

23 Salem, N. J., approximately twelve miles from Camp du Pont. To get there it was necessary for Thackara to cross the Delaware by means of the New Castle ferry, then operated by James McCalmont. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware, 1609–1888* (Philadelphia, 1888), I, 420.

24 When referring to certain friends Thackara used a code which has not been deciphered.

25 Having completed four months and four days of service on Jan. 4, 1815, Thackara was to have received a total of $33.03. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 521.

26 Condy Raguet (1784–1842), Philadelphia economist, editor, and lawyer, was elected lieutenant colonel when the regiment of infantrymen was organized at Camp du Pont. *DAB*, XV, 325–326; *PA*, Second Series, XII, 16.

27 Of the gubernatorial election, in which the Federalist Isaac Wayne was defeated by the Democratic incumbent Simon Snyder, Thomas Cadwalader reported in a letter to his wife on Oct. 12, 1814, that "the democratic majority in Camp is 127." Thomas Cadwalader Papers; Sanford W. Higginbotham, *The Keystone in the Democratic Arch: Pennsylvania Politics 1800–1816* (Harrisburg, 1952), 298–299.

28 Thackara was related to the Sinnickson, Tuft, and Wood families in Salem County, N. J.

29 Edmund Pendleton Gaines (1777–1849), Virginia-born lawyer and soldier, was promoted to major general in August, 1814, in recognition of his successful defense of Fort Erie. On Oct. 7, 1814, he succeeded Gen. Bloomfield as commander of the Fourth Military District. *DAB*, VII, 92–93.

30 Gen. Cadwalader wrote his wife on Oct. 13, 1814, that Gaines had stated after reviewing the troops "that in the whole course of his life he never saw so splendid a Brigade and that the

of each company were ordered by him to be inspected, and of the 4 out of ours, mine, as one, was selected and cleared me from a tour of duty. My accoutrements and breast plate, at the same time, were declared by all the officers present to be the handsomest and in the best order of any that had come under their notice. The General, who is considerably maimed, was attended by Genl. Bloomfield, Allen McLane, Esqr., Genl. Worrell,[31] and several gentlemen from the city.

Coll. Peter L. Berry, after the review when the officers rode up to salute the General, happened to be too late, did not get to the ground till he had taken his departure. The Coll. ordered to take post in front of his regiment much to his dissatisfaction. As he passed our line to salute and saw the officers retiring, he said, in a loud whisper, "Well, I believe I am too late, I'd better go back again," to the infinite amusement of those who heard him. He is the smallest great man I ever met with. He is over 6 feet in height, raw boned, and muscular. Weak, imbecile, and good natured, though easily excited, he is entirely unfit to be lieutenant, let alone a field officer.

There is a rumour afloat that we shall move in a few days, and will be at home at any rate in 2 weeks. Others say they are building barracks to put us into winter quarters. The prevailing opinion seems to be that we shall get home about the beginning of next month. We are sufficiently tired of campaigning.

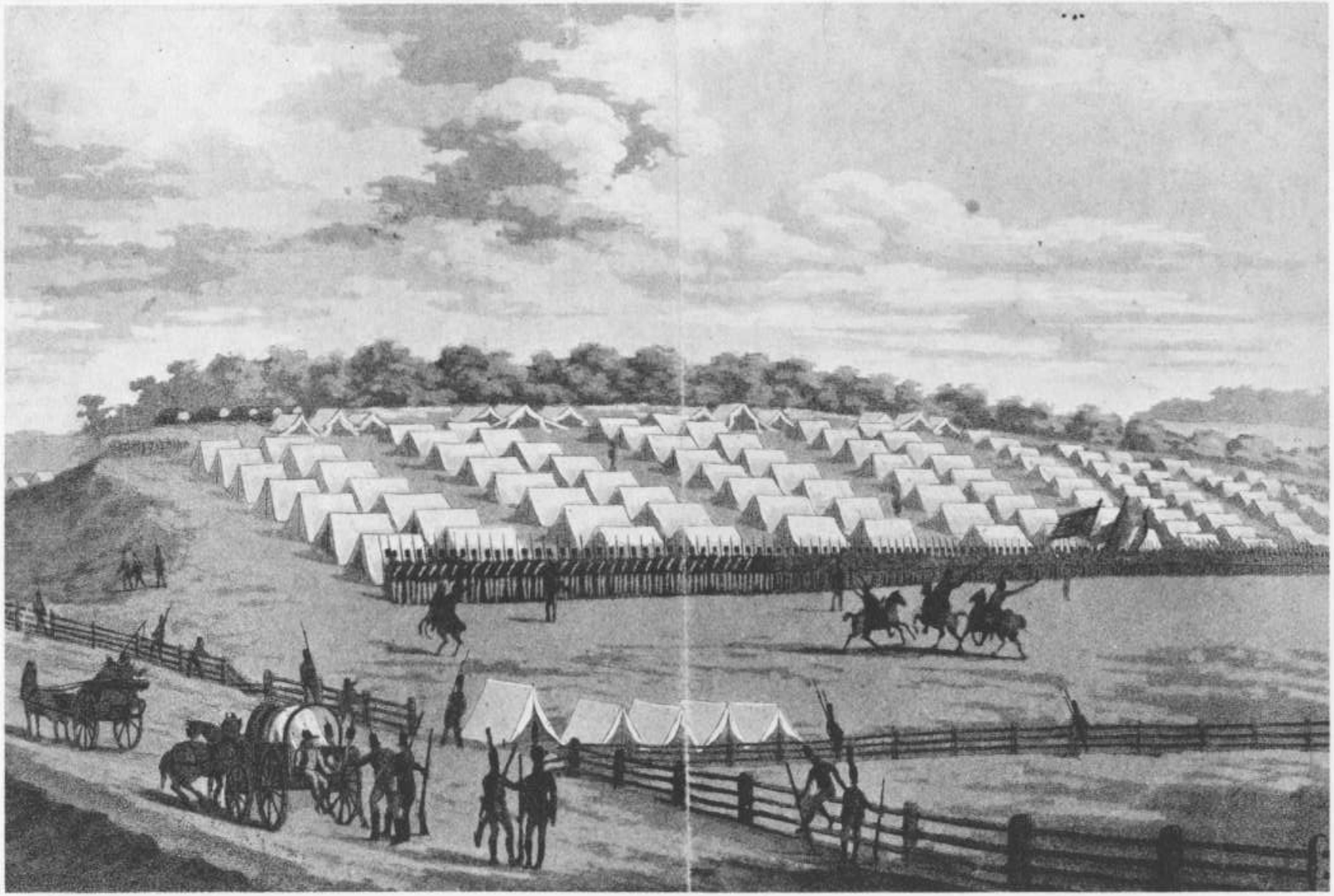
October 15, 1814 Andrew Y. Humphreys,[32] Wm. Philpot, and self, having agreed to go to Salem, got passes this afternoon to be absent from camp till 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Set out towards evening. Overtaken by a heavy gust, wet to the skin. Walked to Wilmington. Got our suppers there, then walked to New Castle. So dark could scarcely see the road so as to keep out of the ditches on either side of it. Were obliged to sleep on the floor at Dowdeney's tavern wrapped up in a blanket with our boots, they being so wet that we could not get them off.

October 16, 1814 Sunday. Crossed the river at sun rise. Got into Salem at ½ past 8. Spent a pleasant day. Went to meeting, saw ∩. Spent the evening at Mr. Tho. Sinnickson's. ∩ and ⊥ there. Left

discipline and movements of the Troops surpassed any thing he could have formed a conception of. . . ." Thomas Cadwalader Papers.

31 Isaac Worrell (1754–1825), Philadelphia soldier and politician, was Major General of the First Division, Pennsylvania Militia. *PMHB*, XLIX (1925), 183–184; Harpster, 203.

32 Andrew Y. Humphreys, private, First Company, Washington Guards, *PA*, Second Series, XII, 344.



Childs and Inman

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

CAMP DU PONT

Salem at 9 p.m. Jno. Sinnickson took us down to Penn's Neck[33] ferry in carriage. Very dark. Blowing a gale. Could not get anybody to take us across the river. Got a black fellow, at last, at the ferry to go with us in large horse boat. Started at ½ past eleven. Wouldn't take any charge of boat, laid down in a kind of forecastle. I took the helm and Humphreys tended sheet. Could not see where we were. Got into Christiana Creek at last, a long time finding it. Hailed from the gunboats laying there. Made the black boy believe that they would fire into us, and, if it did not sink the boat and drown us all, we should be taken prisoners and he would be shot for having soldiers aboard whose leave of absence had expired. "Boat ahoy! Who are you?" again hailed one of the gunboats. "For God's sake! don't fire, gentlemen; I'm only a poor black boy bringing potatoes to market from *Jarsey*." "Come along side here, you black rascal! and let's look at you," was the order from the gunboat. "I'm coming, sir. Don't fire, sir. I'm coming. Indeed, I'm only from *Jarsey*, sir!" We took off our caps, and I steered pretty close, passing them within a boat's length, very much to the satisfaction of the black boy, who did not think himself out of harm's way till we landed in Wilmington—which we did at one o'clock a.m.

October 17, 1814 Walked to camp. Humphreys and I managed to slip in through the sentries down by the spring and got to our tents just before reveille beat. Our orderly, Tho. B. Dickinson, put his head in a little while after and enquired where I was at tattoo. "I was spending the night with a friend." "Whereabouts?" "With one of the First Co.!" "You'd better not be away from your quarters another night Sir, if you wish to escape from double duty." Philpot was caught and had double duty to perform. And thus ended our Salem excursion.

October 21, 1814 Copy of a letter written to my Father:

Main Guard, Camp Dupont, near
Wilmington, 21st October 1816

My Dear Father

With pleasure I seize every opportunity of writing, and hope you will excuse a miserable scrawl occasioned by the confusion of a guardhouse and cold fingers. 'Tis the most unpleasant day I have yet had

[33] Penns Neck, N. J., about thirty-five miles northeast of Philadelphia. It is probable that Thackara meant Penns *Grove*, N. J., which is directly across the Delaware River from Wilmington.

to be upon guard, and it has made several attempts to snow through the continued rain of the morning. The cold reminds me of a pair of mittens, which I would thank you to procure for me. Andrew Humphreys, who returns on Tuesday, will take charge of anything for me, and if he does not call upon you (which I expect he will), he will certainly call on Aunt Halls,[34] and, if left there, he will get them. I should have written by him but knew nothing of his going so soon. We had a sermon from Bishop White[35] on Sunday last, which they say was very good; as I was out of camp, I did not hear it.

In general orders, last evening, we received very flattering praise, in preference to all the other camps; and were informed that we were to be the *advance* of the army in case of an engagement: thus to have the first chance of being shot, which is surely a remarkable privilege. Another thing insisted upon was that "all deserters must be shot," a very mortifying and bitter injunction, which, I hope, among volunteers will never be incurred or fulfilled.

Our hopes of getting home are very weak, and 'tis said, and I believe with some truth, that boards are furnished in Wilmington for the purpose of building huts for us. It has already occasioned considerable murmuring throughout the whole encampment, as, since the approach of cold weather, the majority seem to think every attempt to keep them from home a great imposition to which they have no wish to submit. Our duty is stricter and more severe daily. This morning we were told that no one after coming off from a tour of guard duty (24 hours) could absent himself from morning or regiment drill, or from any of the roll calls. I assure you it is very fatiguing.

General Gaines visits us tomorrow, but we have little wish to see him. His visits are generally productive of trouble and inconvenience. It is said he decides upon the spot for the erection of our huts.

We are to have a sham fight some time next week, and 40,000 blank cartridges are prepared for it.

Our kitchens are now well attended, and the men loitering around the fires form a respectable looking line, both morning and evening. It is very cold sleeping in tents, since the cold weather came on, and our situation on the hill where we are open to every N. W. gale is still

[34] Jane Trenchard Hall (1754–1843) was a sister of the diarist's mother and wife of the Philadelphia printer William Hall. Cook, 21–24.

[35] William White (1748–1836) was bishop of the diocese of Pennsylvania from 1786 until his death. *DAB*, XX, 121–122.

more uncomfortable. We have still plenty to eat, which alone will keep us alive, as our appetites never fail us.

The remainder of the letter composed of family matters, etc.

October 28, 1814 Severe storm of wind and rain. Blew so hard in the night that the tents were blown in every direction, ours among the rest. Some of the marquees also carried away. Tom Lake,[36] who knows how to play old soldier as well as anybody, and who pops himself down whenever he can find good eating or comfortable sleeping, had planted himself in the back part of our tent. His own stood firm whilst in ours he got a good soaking, much to the satisfaction of the whole mess and the amusement of his own.

November 5, 1814 With some difficulty got my furlough, for which I had applied some days previous. The weather still rainy. Obliged to walk to Wilmington and got there just in time for the stage. The roads wretchedly bad. A traveller a few evenings since, between the "Practical Farmer"[37] and Wilmington, attempting to pass on a part of the road, which it was too dark to see, spurred his horse unmercifully because the poor beast refused to proceed. And well it was that he did refuse, for, when he dismounted to ascertain the reason of the animal's alarm, he discovered through the gloom the danger he had escaped from—a fall of 15 or 20 feet into a gully on the side of the road would undoubtedly have tried the strength of his neck. Stopped at the Practical Farmer. Mrs. W. Spoke of :ZZ:U. In Philada. at 5 p.m. Father surprised to see me.

November 6, 1814 Still raining. In afternoon to M. E.'s who had returned from Reading. Streets appear deserted by men.

November 7, 1814 Finished business, paid some visits, and spent evening at M. E.'s. Rained all day.

November 8, 1814 Tuesday. Left the city for camp and got to Wilmington after dark. The Rifle Regiment[38] there on their way to

36 Thomas Lake, private, Third Company, Washington Guards. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 520.

37 John Spurrier, an Englishman and the first husband of Thackara's grandfather's third wife, wrote an agricultural work entitled *The Practical Farmer* . . . , published in Wilmington in 1793. He kept a public house called by that name on the Wilmington-Philadelphia Road, three miles below Marcus Hook. The inn was erected prior to the middle of the eighteenth century and was destroyed by fire on July 4, 1872. Another was subsequently built on this site. Scharf, II, 907; also described by William Thackara in the unpublished portion of this diary.

38 The First Regiment, Volunteer Riflemen, commanded by Col. Thomas Humphreys, was composed of troops from Northampton, Lehigh, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties. Scharf and Westcott, I, 573; *PA*, Second Series, XII, 17.

Camp Dupont. Quartered in the courthouse[39] and in different parts of the town, a number in the meeting house.[40] Appeared very strange to see them cooking their supper among the tombstones in the graveyard, the light of their fires reflecting upon their rough faces and the white surface of the marble monuments through the darkness of the night. A wild uncouth set of Dutchmen. In camp at ½ past 8 p.m. and reported myself.

November 9, 1814 The Rifle Regiment consisting of upwards of 1300 men, commanded by Coll. Humphreys came into Camp Dupont this morning. One old man (Capt. Horn)[41] 70 years of age, captain of a company, has 5 sons with him. The bugle concert at tattoo this evening exceeded everything of the music kind I ever heard.[42] Caused a universal stir in camp. 17 bugles of all sizes and descriptions, no two alike.

November 10, 1814 On guard. A number of riflemen put on—raw inexperienced hands. Many could not speak a word of English, diverting to hear them hail at night when all was still. Four funeral processions to bury 4 quarters of beef condemned by the General. Procession commanded by the Captain of the Ugly Club (a member of the Union Guards[43]), composed of 300 or 400 men, with the regimental band playing the dead march. The quarters of meat, carried on biers covered with pall's, one at the head and the others at equal distances in the procession. Music preceding each bier. Marched several times round the camp, grave diggers with their spades and mattocks preceding. When they came to the spot, the graves were dug, the meat put into them, one man made a prayer in German, and the Genl., or rather Captn., of the Ugly Club, a humourous fellow, gave a sermon in French, reciting the virtues of deceased while living, the barbarity of the men who murdered them, and, finally, the

39 The second Town Hall on Market St., completed in 1798, now houses the Delaware Historical Society. Scharf, II, 643.

40 Possibly the First Presbyterian Church at the corner of Market and Tenth Sts. *Ibid.*, 843.

41 Capt. Abraham Horne, Jr., of the First Company, Northampton County Riflemen. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 243; *A Brief Sketch of the Military Operations on the Delaware during the Late War*, 64.

42 "The Martial Music of Camp Dupont," published in Philadelphia by George E. Blake, about 1816, includes music played at tattoo.

43 The Second Military Drill Association was renamed the Union Guards in 1814. John Russell Young, *Memorial History of the City of Philadelphia* (New York, 1898), II, 165.

beastly act of the *cannibal* who sent them to us to *eat*; volunteering to do as much for the contractor as we had done for the beef, that is bury *him* without any expense to his family or the state. The contractors loss.

One of the Rifleman, on post next to me, in the night called to me to hold his gun as he must go into the woods a little bit. I cautioned him against it, told him I wouldn't hold his gun for a trifle, and, further, that if he was found off his post he would be shot to a certainty. All this was alarming. Danger was not in sight. Nature was pressing. He laid his gun down in the path and retired. He had scarcely gone before the "*Grand Rounds*"[44] were in motion, coming quickly upon us. I called to him to come on the instant if he wished to go home alive; and he came, seized his gun, and with that occupying one hand and his clothes the other, he stood the very picture of terror and despair when the "*rounds*" came along. He was so terrified that he forgot what to say and stood motionless. The officer, when he held his lantern up to his face, could with difficulty refrain from laughing outright, and the first movement *he* made after calling the guard, was to use a finger and thumb of his unoccupied hand in holding his nose. The guard put another man in his place and carried him off, begging them for God's sake not to shoot him. He only went to s—t and he didn't know there was any harm in it. What was man to do? The poor Dutchman was really frightened out of his wits.

November 11, 1814 A sham fight.[45] I, having just come off guard, was not in it. A beautiful sight and a fine view of it from the top of the hill. An old gentleman, who recollected the Battle of Brandywine, told me that it brought it fresh to his recollection. 20,000 blank cartridges expended. The day was fine.

November 12, 1814 Pass for 26 hours. Walked to Kennett Square, 7½ miles in one hour and 20 minutes. Very kindly received by Jonathan Pierce's family.

November 13, 1814 Spent the day at Pierces, where I was very handsomely treated, and returned to camp at 5 p.m. A man drummed

44 The periodic inspection of the guard by the officers.

45 Thomas Pleasants describes the "sham fight" in his diary as follows: "At 11 had a field exercise—the line fired by companies, followed by independent firing—the riflemen charged into the woods and thickets and ditches, picked off the men and officers, and at last out-flanked them, fired at the General and staff. Mifflin detached Gratz into the woods after them; the cavalry charged—on the whole it was an animating scene." *PMHB*, XXXIX (1915), 418–419.

out of camp with a board fastened to his back on which was painted "Riotous Drunkard."

Captn. P. A. Browne[46] put Jno. Connelly[47] of the Fencibles in the guardhouse. Appears to be more disliked than any officer among the volunteers, of a querulous unpleasant temper. His mean conduct towards Ensign Fawkes[48] of Independent Volunteers or Oldenburgh's Company, as it is called, reprehended by everybody on the ground. One of Captn. Browne's men, who had been put in the guardhouse for some trifling offence and who had been neglected by his mess, asked permission of Lieut. Fawkes to go to his tent for something to eat, and gave his word and honour that he would return in a few minutes. Lieut. F., who did not like to see the man suffer, permitted him to go for 10 minutes. Captn B. met him on his way there, ordered a file of soldiers to arrest him, put him in confinement, prevented his return, and then went and demanded of Lieut. F. his prisoner; he was not there. He then went and reported the officer of the guard Lieut. F. for not doing his duty and managed to have him arrested. Lieut. F. immediately laid down his sword. When the matter came to be investigated, and it was found that B. prevented the man from returning himself, and, as some say, prevented the man in the first place from having any [food] sent to him to eat, Lieut F. had his sword immediately restored to him and was discharged from arrest by the Genl. with a proper reprimand for forgetting his duty in this, the only instance known.

When it became known, B. received sufficient notice of the indignation of the men throughout the encampment. He is guilty of numberless acts of meanness.

November 15, 1814 Saw a woman playing upon the violin in one of the militiamen's tents, played very sweetly. Her name was Balterson, I believe, of Chester County.

Some apprehensions being entertained by Genl. Gaines, commander of this district, that the enemy, who has maintained his position at the mouth of the Delaware during the whole summer and

46 Capt. Peter A. Browne of the Independent Blues of the 1st Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 66, 747.

47 Private John Connelly, State Fencibles. *Ibid.*, 277.

48 Ensign Richard Fawkes, of Captain Daniel Oldenbergh's company of infantry, the Independent Volunteers. *PA*, Sixth Series, VIII, 483.

autumn, meditates a landing on some part of its western shore, he has ordered Coll. Irvine[49] of the Army, who occupies a station on the Frenchtown Road, 2 miles below New Castle, with a detachment of regular troops, to proceed with his command some distance below. An order for General Cadwalader to replace him with 600 men was received this afternoon. It has created a belief that a meeting with the enemy will shortly take place.[50]

November 16, 1814 This morning the detachment from the left wing of the regiment, under the command of Lieut. Coll. Raguet, proceeded to the designated spot and reached the ground occupied by Colonel Irvine just as he was leaving there at 2 o'clock, a distance of 13 miles.

A line of videttes is also extended from Port Penn,[51] at the head of Delaware Bay, to Camp Dupont by Captn. Ross'[52] troop and is to communicate with the detachment just gone, in addition to which a commissioned officer is daily detailed and stationed at New Castle to collect from travellers, sea faring men, and watermen, such intelligence of the operations and position of the enemy as could be obtained, and report the same to the commanding officer.

The companies detailed for this detachment were as follow, viz:

Artillery

The Independent Artillerists, Capt. Jas. M. Linnard

Infantry

1. First Company Washington Guards, Captn. [John R.] Mifflin
2. Second Co. Washington Guards, Captn. [John] Swift
3. The Independent Blues, Captn. Peter A. Browne
4. Second Co. Union Guards, Captn. [Joseph] Murray
5. The Delaware County Fencibles, Captn. [James] Serrill

49 Probably Col. Jared Irvine, *PA*, Second Series, XII, 8.

50 Thomas Pleasants explained this further in his diary entry for Nov. 15, 1814: "News received that the British had returned in considerable force in the Chesapeake. A detachment of infantry is to be sent to the neighborhood of New Castle—all our corps anxious to go, but the five companies of the left were detailed under Raguet and Vorhees, and Lennard's company of artillery." On November 16, he reported, ". . . there are no vessels of consequence in the Delaware." *PMHB*, XXXIX (1915), 419.

51 Port Penn, Del., is about ten miles south of New Castle on the Delaware River.

52 Capt. Charles Ross commanded the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, *PA*, Second Series, XII, 444.

The staff appointed for this detachment are viz:
Condy Raguet, Lieut. Coll. Commanding
Samuel S. Voorhees, Major
Thomas R. Peters, Adjutant
Frederick W. Sperry, Quarter Master
Samuel Israel, Assistant Qr. Master
James S. Ferguson, Surgeon
Cephas G. Childs, Sergeant Major
Wm. S. Hobson, Qr. Master Sergeant

A report in circulation this evening that a considerable force had arrived in the Delaware.

November 19, 1814 Wrote to my Cousin R. Trenchard, Philada.

Camp Dupont, 19th Novr. 1814

Dear Cousin,

Disappointment after disappointment has prevented my complying with your request ere this, and of course deprived me of the pleasure which writing to a friend always gives. In fact it is only the hope of pleasing that induces me to write, for I have nothing worth relating to tell you. To be sure we have *news* in the greatest profusion in camp. But alas! none sterling, nor that to which we can attach any credit. To judge of the value of it, when any story a little strange or improbable is circulated it is called *Camp News!* Our expectations are frequently raised and seldom realized.

We have been feeding ourselves up with the notion of daily taking up our line of march towards home, whose comforts are now hourly covetted; and we are hourly disappointed.

On the 15th a report was circulated that we should strike our tents the next day, and all supposed to go home. In the evening news was brought that a considerable force had [arrived] in the Delaware and off Annapolis, and part of our brigade was immediately ordered to prepare for a march; which the battalion, composing the left wing of the regiment, set out upon on the morning of the 16th, commanded by Lieut. Coll. Condy Raguet. The right wing, in which is our company, protested against the procedure, and claimed the preference of taking the first post of danger, but the brigade major insisted upon it, that the post of greatest honour should be considered that which was commanded by the general. Andrew (Humphreys) was in high spirits when he left us. They have gone near New Castle.

Yesterday we were marched to Wilmington and back again through a heavy rain (which began soon after leaving camp) and mud knee-deep. 'Twas a specimen of campaigning rather too uncomfortable to be pleasing. We were compleatly wet *all day* and *all night.*

It has grown so very cold that I hope you will excuse a miserable scrawl. My fingers, cramped with a bleak Northwester, cannot compass any better.

It is said we shall not see home for a month at least. I hope sooner! Major Manigault[53] inspects us the day after tomorrow; what it leads to it is hard to say. Please give my respects to Uncle and Aunt, the girls, and all friends, and believe me, etc., etc.

W.W.T.

Went in the evening down to the Brandywine, fine moonlight night, Dupont's mills, romantic scenery, delightful spot.

November 20, 1814 Wrote to my father in Philad. as follows:

Camp Dupont, 20 November 1814

My dear Father,

Under the impression of moving towards home very shortly, and indulging in the hope of knowing our orders daily, I deferred writing till now. The period seems as far distant as ever, and I have now no idea when we shall move, though I hope very soon. We are to be inspected tomorrow by Major Manigault. Part of the regiment have gone to New Castle to relieve the regulars who have gone into winter quarters at Lewistown.[54]

Our *sham-fight* so much pleased the general that preparation was made for another, and on Friday last we were marched to Wilmington and, if the rain had not prevented us, were to have gone to surprise the encampment at New Castle. The marching was bad enough, through mud knee-deep, and heavy rain, and dark night, for we did not get to our quarters till 8 p.m.[55] This cold weather, perhaps, may help to get us home sooner than the weather we have had. The top of

53 Maj. Gabriel Henry Manigault, Assistant Inspector General, 43rd Infantry, was at Camp du Pont at this time. Heitman, 687; *PA*, Sixth Series, VIII, 500.

54 Lewistown, Pa., about 150 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

55 Thomas Cadwalader commented on this in a letter to his wife the following day: "My men have been so disheartened lately that I yesterday took an extraordinary way of raising their spirits—namely by marching to Wilmington and back thru' one of the severest rains I ever witnessed—they are all now in high spirits and not a man has suffered—the effect of this frolick will last a few days—and if we have no orders immediately to go home I shall keep them on the stir as much as possible—an idle day in the rain is of serious injury to their spirits." Thomas Cadwalader Papers.

our hill is very bleak, and a good strong Northwester does not tend to make it more comfortable. Very few visitors now come to the camp, and opportunities for writing are not so frequent as formerly. I would write more, but I hope cold fingers and no way of warming them will prove excuse sufficient.

Give my best respects to Uncles S., Wm., McP.,[56] etc., etc., and believe me sincerely your affectionate son.

W.W.T.

P. S. My trunk, which Mr. C. was good enough to take charge of, I would thank you to receive when he arrives. He will inform you where to find it. Many have sent home their extra baggage hoping to get home soon.

November 27, 1814 A quilting frolic on the Brandywine, some pretty girls from the factories there.[57] Major Bozorth,[58] Captain Fenton,[59] Lieutenant Snyder,[60] and others there. Went into camp with them about 2 o'clock a.m.

Benj. Mitchell (brother of the conveyancer)[61] of our compy. took charge of a large pound cake, made by Mrs. Goodfellow for Captn. T. F. Pleasants, with his name handsomely cypherd in coloured sugar on the top, and with some of his cronies on the way down, demolished it.

Mess. no. 9 composed of a curious set of originals: Carson, Wurtz, Haverstick, Mills, McFarrand, and Erringer, Catherwood, and Persimmons.[62]

56 Thackara's uncles were: Samuel Thackara (1773–1844), sea captain, shipchandler, and surveyor of vessels; William Thackara (1770–1823), plasterer; and Daniel McPherson (?—1822), sea captain. *Public Ledger*, Oct. 3, 1844; family Bible in the possession of Samuel James, Media, Pa.; *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, May 14, 1822.

57 Active at this time along the Brandywine were numerous mills producing flour, gunpowder, paper, and textiles. Peter C. Welsh, "Merchants, Millers, and Ocean Ships: The Components of an Early American Industrial Town," *Delaware History*, VII (1957), 323.

58 Maj. William Bozorth served under Lt. Col. Peter L. Berry with the detachment of drafted militia of the Advance Light Brigade. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 17.

59 Capt. Peter Fenton commanded the Fourth Company of drafted city militia, First Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania Militia. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 141.

60 George C. Snyder, Second Lt., Independent Artillerists, or John Snyder, Second Lt., Independent Volunteers. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 747; Sixth Series, VIII, 482.

61 Thomas Mitchell is listed in the *Directory* for 1815 (a supplement to the directory for 1814) as a conveyancer at the corner of Third and Spruce Sts.

62 James B. Carson, C. Wertz, Charles Haverstick, William M. Mills, Alexander McFarrand, Jacob Erringer, and Robert Catherwood. All were privates in the Third Company,

November 30, 1814 Wednesday. At 11 a.m. raining very hard and extremely cold. Broke up the encampment at Dupont. Struck our tents in the hardest of the rain and marched to Wilmington. Joined by the detachment from New Castle. Quartered about town, in the poor house, etc. Our company at Lambourn's,[63] bad accommodations. Staid at Mrs. Latimer's[64] all night.

December 1, 1814 Took up the line of march for Philada. at noon. Roads very bad from rain of yesterday. Got to Chester at 5 p.m. At Mrs. Piper's,[65] tolerable supper, slept on floor, fare 50/100. Flying Artillery men,[66] some of them got into our quarters, great blackguards, made great uproar and noise. One of them arrested and disarmed by Capt. P. of our Co. and Lieut. Ellick[67] of 2nd Co. W. Gds. Some of the Union Gd. came. Lawyer Mills and the [illeg.], a minor, couldn't compell him to pay.

December 2, 1814 Revielle beat at one a.m. Fine moonlight morning. Took up the line of march at 4 a.m. Got to Darby at 8 and halted there for ¾ of an hour. Passed the Blue bell[68] about ½ past 10; Genl. Riall (a British prisoner of war)[69] there, and expressed high approbation of the appearance and discipline of the troops. Got into

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Washington Guards, except McFarrand who was in the Fourth Company of drafted militia commanded by Capt. Peter Fenton. Persimmons cannot be identified. *PA*, Sixth Series, VII, 519–522; VIII, 370.

63 *A Directory and Register for the Year 1814 of Wilmington and Brandywine* includes Eli Lamborn, innkeeper, at 112 Market St., corner of Queen St.

64 Probably Ann Latimer, noted in the 1814 Wilmington directory as a "gentlewoman" at 123 Market St., near Lamborn's inn where Thackara's company was quartered.

65 "The Washington House," a mid-eighteenth-century inn located on Market near Fifth St., Chester, was owned in 1814 by Mrs. Sarah Piper. Henry Graham Ashmead, *Historical Sketch of Chester, on Delaware* (Chester, 1883), 82–86; John Hill Martin, *Chester (and its Vicinity), Delaware County, in Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1877), 267.

66 The Franklin Flying Artillery, commanded by Capt. Richard Bache. *PA*, Second Series, XII, 39.

67 First Lt. Clement S. Ellick served under Capt. John Swift in the Second Company, Washington Guards. *PA*, Sixth Series, VIII, 570.

68 The Blue Bell Inn built in 1766 was situated on the corner that is now Woodland Ave. and 74th St.; this was on the route from Darby into Philadelphia. Elise Lathrop, *Early American Inns and Taverns* (New York, 1926), 170; see also Christopher Colles, *A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America, 1789*, Walter W. Ristow, ed. (Cambridge, Mass., 1961), 168, Pl. 51.

69 Sir Phineas Riall (1775–1850) came to Canada in September, 1813, as a major general with the British Army; he was seriously wounded and taken prisoner in the Battle of Fort Erie in July, 1814. *Niles' Weekly Register* of Nov. 26, 1814, noted that "Maj. Gen. Riall, and his aid, are on their way to Easton, Pa. (or rather, have probably arrived there) on parole, to wait the

Philadelphia at noon. Reviewed by Genl. Gaines and Cadwalader and dismissed in companies. Marched out to 13th Street, to our captain's quarters, and dismissed with orders to attend roll call every morning at 9 a.m., and a parade at Bush Hill[70] on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

December 3, 1814 Roll call at State House.[71] Parade dispensed with till Tuesday the 6th inst. No drill on account of the snow.

December 5, 1814 Captn. [Daniel] Keim's company, Reading Washington Blues, dismissed subject to further orders.

December 6, 1814 Captn. [Samuel] Anderson's company, Mifflin Guards, Capt. [James] Serrill's company, Delaware Co. Fencibles, } dismissed subject to further orders

December 9, 1814 Friday. Battalion drill at Bush Hill. Very cold. Guard detailed every day.

December 10, 1814 Morning roll call dispensed with till further orders.

December 11, 1814 Genl. Cadwalader appointed successor to Genl. Gaines on his departure to New Orleans, in command of the 4th U. S. Military District. The command of the brigade devolved upon the senior officer Coll. Biddle.[72]

December 12, 1814 Captn. [Charles] Ross' "First City Troop," Coll. [Thomas] Humphreys' Regiment of Riflemen, } dismissed subject to further orders

December 24, 1814 Captain [Richard] Bache's company of [Franklin] Flying Artillery, Capt. [William] Rawle's [Second] Troop of City Cavalry. } inspected and dismissed subject to further orders[73]

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expected sailing of a cartel for Europe, from Philadelphia." This could account for his presence at the Blue Bell Inn. *Dictionary of National Biography* (New York, 1896), XLVIII, 93.

70 Bush Hill was the meeting place for troops defending Philadelphia. This was the site of Andrew Hamilton's mansion built in about 1740 and destroyed by fire in 1808. Harpster, 199; Joseph Jackson, *Encyclopedia of Philadelphia* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1931), II, 354-356.

71 Independence Hall.

72 Clement C. Biddle (1784–1855), Philadelphia lawyer and political economist. In 1813, he founded the State Fencibles and was elected Captain of this company. At Camp du Pont he was elected Colonel of the First Regiment, Volunteer Infantry in the Advance Light Brigade. *Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York, 1888), I, 255; *PA*, Second Series, XII, 16.

73 Following this entry is "a list of those persons who issued small notes, from 3 cents to 50/100 for change, when no specie was to be obtained." Included are the names of 126 individuals and banks.

January 2, 1815 Lieutent. Coll. Berry's detachment of militia inspected and dismissed.

January 3, 1815 Lieutenant Col. [Andrew M.] Prevost's Regiment of Artillery inspected and dismissed.

January 4, 1815 Wednesday. Agreeably to a general order of Major Genl. Gaines, our Regiment of Volunteer Infantry under Coll. Biddle paraded for inspection preparatory to a long expected and much wished for discharge. Although the weather was extremely cold and the walking dangerous and uncomfortable upon the frozen surface of a light snow, which had thawed considerably the day before, we were marched from the State House into Broad Street taking Genl. Cadwalader's quarters (corner of Arch and Ninth Streets) in the way. There we were discharged, after inspection, by companies according to our rank in the line, the oldest companies in commission first and so on to the end of the line. Our Brigade Major (John Hare Powell)[74] and Colonel (Clement C. Biddle) publickly complimented me for the fine order and excellent condition in which I had always kept my arms and accoutrements etc., etc. It is the last time, I think, that they will ever have an opportunity of so doing in the same way and upon the same occasion, i.e., as a soldier in the service of the United States.

[74] John Hare Powel (1786–1856), Philadelphia-born agriculturist, was Brigade Major under Gen. Cadwalader at Camp du Pont. When mentioned in the diary, Powel was serving as Inspector General with the rank of colonel in the regular army. *Appletons' Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York, 1888), V, 94; *PA*, Second Series, XII, 15.